

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1506

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 8113

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, KE, UG, TZ

SUBJECT: DISMISSAL OF NON-KENYAN AFRICANS

REF: NAIROBI 8007

1. SECRETARY-GENERAL JUMA BOY OF CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF TRADE UNIONS (COTU) ANNOUNCED AT PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 2 HE HAS SUSPENDED COAST COTU OFFICIAL WHO CALLED FOR WHOLESALE SACKING OF NON-KENYANS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY (REFTEL). BOY SAID COAST SECRETARY MBWANA WARRAKAH "HAD NO MANDATE FROM COTU TO ISSUE SUCH A STATEMENT." BOY SAID WARRAKAH, WHO HAS RETRACTED OFFENDING STATEMENT, WILL REMAIN SUSPENDED PENDING AUGUST 6 MEETING OF COTU EXECUTIVE BOARD.

2. BOY, WHO IS ALSO SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MOMBASA DOCKWORKERS UNION, ANNOUNCED HE HAS CALLED EMERGENCY MEETING OF JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL TO DISCUSS REMOVAL OF UGANDAN WORKERS FROM PORT. HE SAID REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF AUGUST 6 COTU MEETING, "A DISPUTE WILL BE DECLARED BETWEEN THE DOCKWORKERS' UNION AND THE EAST
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AFRICAN CARGO HANDLING SERVICES." BOY DEMANDED

IMMEDIATE REINSTATEMENT OF 70 ALIENS SACKED AT PORT
OF MOMBASA AND DISCLOSURE BY EMPLOYER OF "WHO ISSUED
THE DIRECTIVE TO REMOVE THESE PEOPLE."

3. BOY SAID IN PRESS CONFERENCE KENYA MUST CONTINUE
ITS RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
CONVENTION PROTECTING IMMIGRANT LABOR. "AS A WORKERS'
BODY," HE SAID, "WE HAVE A RIGHT TO DEFEND ALL WORKERS,
REGARDLESS OF THEIR NATIONALITY."

4. COMMENT: NAIROBI "STANDARD" ON AUGUST 2 PUBLISHED
EDITORIAL CRITICIZING "FOREIGN AFRICANS WORKING IN
KENYA." EDITORIAL PROCLAIMED THERE ARE "FAR TOO MANY"
FOREIGN AFRICANS EMPLOYED IN KENYA "AT A TIME WHEN OUR
OWN PEOPLE ARE DENIED SIMILAR OPPORTUNITIES IN NEIGH-
BORING COUNTRIES." ALTHOUGH MINISTRY OF LABOR STATES
THERE IS NO OFFICIAL POLICY CONDONING WHOLESAL SACKING
OF NON-KENYANS, "STANDARD" EDITORIAL IS PROBABLY CLOSER
TO GOVERNMENT THINKING THEN BOY'S STATEMENTS.

DECON 1-1-77

MARSHALL

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